

CALIFORNIA CHILDREN & FAMILIES COMMISSION

**Thursday, October 18, 2001
Santa Cruz County
Board of Supervisor's Chambers
701 Ocean Street, Room 525
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order

- Chairman Reiner called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

Agenda Item 2 – Roll Call

- Commission Chairman Rob Reiner, Commissioner Susan Lacey, Commissioner Kim Belshé, Commissioner Louis Vismara, Commissioner Teresa Garcia and Commissioner Karen Hill-Scott

Agenda Item 3 - Approval of Minutes

- The September 20, 2001 Minutes were approved with no changes.

Agenda Item 4 – Chairman's Report – Rob Reiner

- Jeff Almquist, Chair of the Santa Cruz County Children and Families Commission, welcomed the Commission to Santa Cruz. He talked about what Proposition 10 funding has allowed the County to do. Such things as: financial incentives to day care workers, pediatric care, library/daycare home, special needs kids program for the parents. He then thanked Chairman Reiner for his leadership and vision for creating leading the CCFC, to see his vision become a reality.
- Chairman Reiner then discussed his trip to Pennsylvania to assist Governor Ridge to launch a program there that mirrors Prop 10. Pennsylvania is using our Parenting Guide and other materials.
- Chairman Reiner reported the State Commission had an audit completed by the Department of Finance and had no findings.
- The Kit for New Parents and new media launch will be 11/1/01 at 10:30 at Hope Street, in downtown Los Angeles.
- A joint letter from Chairman Reiner, Kerry Mazzoni and Delaine Eastin is being prepared to inform schools of the School Readiness Initiative.
- Commissioner Vismara gave an update on the Sonoma State University Strategic Planning Project/Regional Forums. Purpose of this project is to improve the care that special needs children receive. There will be three forums to bring together a

wide selection of stakeholders and have brainstorming discussions. They will provide the strategic planning and facilitation of these forums. There will be a set of recommendations, which will be submitted to the State Commission in January.

Agenda Item 5 - Executive Directors Report – Jane Henderson

- Jane thanked Santa Cruz for hosting this meeting and the community event the previous night.
- Policy panels on Health, Research, Training of Informal Childcare providers and a panel from the counties will be established. The meetings will be held at the following commission meetings: Health in November, Training of Informal Childcare providers in January, Research and Counties in February.
- Introduced new Executive Fellow: Jovanna Gonsalves.
- Commissioner Belshé reminded us that we were to prepare a talking paper regarding the Governor's Budget. Jane responded that a draft has been done.

Agenda Item 6 - Report from the California Children and Families Association – Dorinda Ohnstad

Discussion: All 58 counties are now represented in the Association. 42 counties were present at the Association meeting held on October 17, 2001. The Evaluation Committee has been actively working with the State Commission. Media Committee had extensive conversations on the CBO program and how it will help spread the word. The counties are looking forward to being a partner in the Kits. The key barrier for parents not accessing services is public not being aware of what services are available. Evaluation is being done on TA services that are supported by the Assoc. Key item: Commissioners Retreat was well attended (170 attendees, 40 of those were Executive Directors, only a handful of counties were not represented); commissioners got a lot out of it and met their needs.

Agenda Item 7 - Equity Principles developed by the Advisory Committee on Diversity: Barbara Marquez

Discussion: Barbara highlighted the changes in the equity principles: "For Prop 10, diversity has been defined to be inclusive of children prenatally to five years of age, regardless of immigration status..." and geography is now included in diversity. Barbara was given a plaque to recognize her work on the Equity Principles.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 8 – Statewide Proposition 10 Program Evaluation Request for Proposal (RFP) – Anthony Souza

Discussion: Main components: refinement of CCFC’s “Results to be Achieved”, County Data Collection, Analysis, and Reporting, and School Readiness Initiative Evaluation System. The timeline begins with the RFP released by November 1, 2001 and ends with initiation of Contract on February 28, 2002. Asked the Commission to Approve: Funding of \$23 Million over 3 years, permission to release the proposed RFP and permission to enter into a contract with the selected vendor. Commissioner Vismara asked what model was this RFP based on and why the funding is set up the way it is. Commissioner Vismara was informed that the RFP is modeled after the evaluation of South Carolina’s Early Childhood Development project. The desire is that there will be one lead vendor with multiple sub vendors assisting. Discussion was held on the topic of inclusion of the adopted equity principles within the RFP. This RFP will have disaggregated data on children and populations being served. Chairman Reiner requested a cost benefits study. Jane pointed out that our annual report will contain fiscal information. Commissioner Garcia stated this study needs to evaluate 2nd and 3rd grade children to show effectiveness of the school readiness project. Commissioner Hill-Scott requested that staff explore extending the 25-page limit, reversing the points for cost and qualifications, and would like to change wordage in the RFP to encourage vendors to subcontract. Commissioner Belshé has asked for a summary document (based on the school readiness project) to specify what deliverables will be achieved. Chairman Reiner wants a discussion item for next month for additional studies, and staff to present to Commissions options for other types of evaluation that we might do, based on another RFP. Anthony was congratulated on a job well done.

Public Comment: Pat Wheatly from SB assured the Commissioners that all 58 counties are involved in the concept of school readiness, and would like the equity principles from the diversity committee put into the RFP. Report generated from this RFP need to be presented in such a way that parents and caregivers understand and find it meaningful. The evaluation has to be a long-term partnership with the schools, into the 2nd and 3rd grades.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 9 – 200,000 Minimum County Allocation – Joseph Munso

Discussion: Disbursement of funds to small counties to ensure a \$200,00 baseline allocation for fiscal year 2001-02. We propose to come back in January with options for a permanent solution to the issue of funding for very small counties.

Action by Commission: The motion to approve was seconded and passed by vote without dissent.

Agenda Item 10 Commission Meeting Calendar for 2002 – Joseph Munso

Action by Commission: The motion to approve was seconded and passed by vote without dissent on proposal.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Policy Institute of California Report on the Conditions of California's Young Children – Deborah Reed

Discussion: Demographic, Social & Economic Conditions. The main findings are that California is a growing and very diverse population and has had positive economic growth in the last couple years. There are over 3 million children from 0-5 in California. Majority of children (48 percent) are Hispanic. The Los Angeles area has over 40 percent of all children under five in CA.

Socioeconomic: poverty rate has fallen in the late 1990's. Low income equals 75 percent of the state median income. Central Valley has the highest level of poverty. By race and ethnicity, poverty rate is high for Hispanics and African Americans and more than half are living in low-income families. Statistics on all children in California: 48% Hispanic, 32% white, over half have a foreign born parent, 41% percent live in the Los Angeles area, number of children born expected to grow by one million in the next 20 years, the most rapid growth is in numbers of Hispanics and Asians.

Special Guest Speaker

Senator Jack O'Connell made a special appearance to recognize the good work that the Commission has done so far, and looked forward to continued partnerships with Commission.

Agenda Item 12 – CCFC Business Plan – Joseph Munso

Discussion:

Content of the Plan:

- Outlines the policy foundation set forth by the Commission
–School Readiness
- Outlines Goals and Objectives of the Commission
- Provides a summary of our key accomplishments/investments
- Provides a summary of key events for our major initiatives.
- Provides detailed work plans
- Financial summary

Use of the Plan

- Inform/update Commissioners on status of projects and expected products
- Inform/update our partners on CCFC activities
- Valuable tool to management to assess/monitor workload, projects, funding

The Plan Does not reflect all workload for such things as:

- Invoice payment
- Financial activities
- General correspondence activities
- Other administrative duties

Updating the Plan

- Will review/update work plans quarterly
- Will review/update entire plan annually
- Initiatives presented to Commission will now have work plans attached

Next steps

- Commissioners review/provide comments on report by November 1
- Further refinements needed for:
 - Key events
 - Work plans
 - Financial section
- Present revised version at November Commission meeting

Agenda Item 13 – Technical Assistance for County Commissions – Richard Iniguez

Discussion: First step are mini-grants (\$5,000 - \$20,000) that have been made available to the counties, implementing Phase I of the School Readiness Initiative; we have received apps from 6 counties so far. Second, is an Interagency Agreement with UCLA; we are currently editing the scope of work and talking to UCLA to fine tune the agreement. Tasks include: developing a tool list, establishing school linkages, peer mentoring network. UCLA surveyed all the county commissions regarding their needs, to make sure we could build a comprehensive Interagency Agreement. The contract start date is January 15, 2002. Third, address long-term TA needs of all the counties and develop a RFP, first draft due 10/31/01, and conference call with county association members, then the RFP will be an action item at the November meeting. We are looking for multiple contractors. Fourth is a contract for language acquisition, which is being procured through our Master Plan process.

Agenda Item 14 – School Readiness Initiative – Roberta Peck

We have received 23 applications for the implementation funds. We are expecting 20 more in January for matching funds. We have developed FAQs and put them up on our website.

**Agenda Item 15 – Master Plan for School Readiness – Judy Stucki and
Commissioner Karen Hill-Scott**

Discussion: For discussion at retreat of School Readiness Master plan Committee
Chairs: accountability, achievement gaps, data collection and analysis, alignment of early education with K-12 and higher education, and aligning responsibility and authority (governance and finance issues). Permission granted by the Joint Committee Office to turn in report 3 weeks after last meeting in January. At the October 25/26 meeting the subgroup on accountability, continuity and transition and family leave will present their reports. The final release of the report from the Joint Committee will be in August 2002. We have general meetings and sub-group meetings to work on the specific issues that have been broken down to be more workable.

Our framework for the report begins with a child at the door to the school and then outlines what the child will need to be ready and successful in school, what the early education system needs to do to prepare that child, and the role of parents and other caregivers. We are looking at recommending resources and packaging those resources in each county so they are accessible and portable. We will define milestones with respect to diversity and special needs. We will also discuss professional development regarding qualifications, including providing support to kith and kin caregivers.

Meeting Adjourned

Next Meeting: November 15, 2001 in Sacramento.